



Rape and Sexual Assault in Massachusetts, 2006-2007

Services Provided by Rape Crisis Programs

Sexual assault is a serious social and public health problem in Massachusetts. Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, 2,566 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)-funded Rape Crisis Centers (RCCs) and Llámanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline. Of these, 1,854 were reported by survivors themselves and an additional 664 were reported by partners, family members, friends and professionals. In Massachusetts, an estimated 13.5% of women and 4.9% of men experience sexual assault[‡] in their lifetime¹.

To respond to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, three types of services were provided through the MDPH Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services (SAPSS) program: 24-hour hotlines, education and outreach, and counseling and client advocacy. To carry out these activities, MDPH contracted with 17 locally-based RCCs across Massachusetts (some with multiple sites), Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc., the state sexual assault prevention coalition. The information below summarizes services delivered over a one-year time period, July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007.

24-Hour Hotline Services

Hotline services were provided by each local rape crisis center (RCC) as well as Llámanos. Callers to the hotlines include sexual assault survivors, their significant others (such as friends, family members and partners), and professionals (such as physicians, teachers, or therapists). Hotline services were provided on an as-needed basis to these individuals for support and resource referrals. Because callers may use the hotlines repeatedly and anonymously, the number of calls to the hotlines is a measure of service use, not sexual assault incidents reported to DPH-funded RCCs or the number of individuals using the hotlines.

24-hour Hotline Services	Survivor Calls	Significant Other Calls	Professional Calls	Other Sexual Assault Calls, Caller Type Unknown	Total Calls
RCCs	6,331	1,206	1,695	697	11,581
Llámanos	59	25	47	42	286
Total Calls	6,390	1,231	1,742	739	11,867

Educational Activities

Educational activities were offered through each RCC, Llámanos, and Jane Doe Inc. Education was provided for two main audiences: (1) non-professional populations such as students, civic organizations, or faith-based groups; and (2) professional audiences such as health care providers, police, or teachers. As a statewide coalition, Jane

[‡] Lifetime sexual assault is defined as ever having experienced rape, attempted rape, or physical sexual assault. This is not the definition used prior to FY2006, so statistics from pre-FY2006 may therefore not be comparable.

¹ Commonwealth of Massachusetts. A Profile of Health Among Massachusetts Adults, 2007: Results from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Boston, Massachusetts: Health Survey Program, Bureau for Health Information, Statistics, Research, and Evaluation, Department of Public Health.

Doe Inc. provided many types of educational services; the Jane Doe Inc. numbers presented below reflect only Jane Doe Inc.'s major conferences and statewide training sessions funded by MDPH.

Education Activities	Community Education		Professional Training		Total	
	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons	Sessions	Persons
RCCs	635	22,071	404	7,259	1,039	29,330
Llámanos	8	104	5	36	13	140
Jane Doe Inc.	1	48	26	641 ²	27	689
Total	644	22,223	435	7,936	1,079	30,159

Counseling and Client Advocacy Services

Individual counseling and client advocacy services were provided by local RCCs. Services included short-term individual counseling, medical client advocacy (including support during forensic evidence collection exams), legal client advocacy, police client advocacy, assistance accessing social services, and advocating on a client's behalf when the client is not actually present. Group counseling sessions were also provided by the RCCs and provided opportunities for individuals to support one another through the healing process.

Total Individual Counseling and Client Advocacy Sessions³	14,773
Number of Unduplicated Counseling and Client Advocacy Clients Served by RCCs⁴	2,851
Counseling Sessions	1,908
Medical Client Advocacy Sessions	736
Legal Client Advocacy Sessions	240
Police Client Advocacy Sessions	69
Other Client Advocacy Sessions	32
Collateral Hours (time spent advocating on client's behalf when client not present) ³	868
Group Counseling Sessions Conducted	1,781

For more information about sexual assault services and a list of MDPH-funded rape crisis centers, please see the Sexual Assault Prevention and Survivor Services website at: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sexualassaultservices>. For more information about the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program (SANE), please go to <http://www.mass.gov/dph/sane>. If you need help, please contact your local rape crisis center

² The number of persons present was not available for five events, so this number is an undercount.

³ Due to changes in data coding, these numbers are not comparable with those reported in previous years.

⁴ The numbers of individual clients listed by service type will add up to more than the total because these counts constitute the number of unique clients who were provided a particular kind of service at least once during FY2007. Some clients received multiple kinds of services from the same RCC.

